

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, I was unfortunately not present for roll call vote 149 on agreeing to H. Res. 275, Condemning the horrific shootings in Atlanta, Georgia, on March 16, 2021, and reaffirming the House of Representative's commitment to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. I fully condemn the shootings in Atlanta on March 16, 2021, and stand fully committed to combating hate, bigotry, and violence against the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. Had I been present for this vote, I would have voted AYE on roll call vote 149.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN MARSHALL BRANCH

HON. EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain John Marshall Branch for twenty-six years of exceptional service to our country.

Captain Branch was commissioned in 1995 after earning a Bachelor of Science in Management from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

Since then, he has over three thousand and five hundred hours of flight experience, served at six air stations, and deployed to six of the seven continents.

From 2016 to 2018, Captain Branch served as the Commanding Officer of Air Station Savannah, successfully supporting hurricane and disaster response, search and rescue, and law enforcement in the southeast, as well as air-space protection for the President and National Capital Region.

Captain Branch has a long list of military accomplishments, including the Korea Defense Service Medal, two Commendation medals, the Antarctic Service Medal, and the Achievement Medal, amongst others.

I am proud to rise today to honor Captain Branch for his leadership, and commitment to our country. I want to thank Captain Branch and his family for his service.

INTRODUCING HOUSE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL POPPY DAY

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise to re-introduce a resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Poppy Day, May 28. The importance of this day cannot be overstated. It's a day full of respect and remembrance for servicemembers who sacrificed so much for our Nation. The poppy flower has long been a marker of respect and a way to raise awareness and support for members of our Nation's veterans communities, servicemembers, and their families. On May 28, we share our respect for their work on behalf of our country by acknowledging the poppy flower's symbolism, and by recognizing their sacrifices—all by donning our "poppy red."

The red-flowered corn poppy became symbolic as a living representation of the brave soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on the fields of battle in World War I. Since that time, the red of the poppy flower—itsself a symbol of the blood shed by those who have served—has been worn as a gesture of gratitude and recognition of others' respective sacrifices for their country, in different theaters of war.

In the United States, The American Legion—and the entire American Legion Family—first called attention in 1920 to the symbolic importance of the poppy flower. At that time, near the end of the war, red-flowered corn poppies were especially linked to the poem *In Flanders Fields*, which reads:

"In Flanders Fields the poppies blow, between the crosses, row on row"

This reference, evoking images of the poppies that sprang up in the churned-up earth of newly dug soldiers' graves in parts of Belgium and France following World War I, encapsulates the symbolic importance of National Poppy Day.

I am proud to have partnered with The American Legion on this bill as their headquarters is in Indianapolis, in my district, and we invite all Members of Congress to wear their poppy red, support the goal and ideals of National Poppy Day on May 28, and pay tribute to those who have sacrificed for our country. I also invite all of my colleagues to join me in sponsoring this resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WOMEN WHO WORKED ON THE HOME FRONT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Women Who Worked on the Home Front World War II Memorial Act, which would authorize the establishment of a memorial on federal land in the District of Columbia commemorating the efforts of the 18 million American women who kept the home front running during World War II. I thank Senators TAMMY DUCKWORTH and MARSHA BLACKBURN for introducing the companion bill in the Senate. The House passed this bill by voice vote last Congress.

As a teenager, Raya Kenney, the founder of the non-profit Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation and my constituent, came up with the idea of a memorial to honor the women on the home front who supported the World War II effort. She rightfully questioned why the women on the home front whose efforts were so instrumental in maintaining the stability of the country during World War II have not received as much recognition for their contributions as the men who fought bravely in World War II.

This bill would authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a memorial to honor these women. The memorial is designed to be interactive and to educate visitors on the important roles women played during World War II. Between 1940 and 1945, the percentage of women in the workforce increased from 27 percent to nearly 37 percent, and by 1945 one in four married women worked outside of the home. The work done by women on the home front opened doors for women in the workplace widely and had a profound effect on the job market going forward. As a result of their efforts, millions of American women on the home front redefined "women's work" and paved the way for future generations.

Many women also played critical roles in support of the war effort. More than 10,000 women served behind the scenes of World War II as code breakers. Due to the classified nature of their work, they did not receive recognition for their tireless efforts until recently. Women were also trained to fly military aircraft so male pilots could leave for combat duty overseas. More than 1,100 female civilian volunteers flew nearly every type of military aircraft as part of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program. WASP flew planes from factories to bases, transported cargo and participated in simulation strafing and target missions. These women were not given full military status until 1977, and it was not until 2010 that they were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.